vi. National Research Centre for Equine Regional Station, Bikaner

vii. Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) Arid Regional Station, Bikaner

viii. Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) Regional Station, Avikanagar

ix National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) Regional Station, Jodhpur

**(II) STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES**

i. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner

ii. Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur

**Loss to farmers of AP due to Bt. Cotton of Monsanto**

†2067. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of Andhra Pradesh suffered loss of crores of rupees due to varieties of Bt. Cotton of American Company, Monsanto;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government has requested the company to pay compensation of 4.5 crore rupees to farmers;

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to impress upon the company to pay compensation to the farmers; and

(d) the arrangement made by Government to ban the entry of Bt. Cotton in the country keeping in view the loss being suffered by farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported large scale complaints in respect of Bt. Cotton hybrids MECH-12 of M/s Mahyco-Monsanto which had not performed in the Warrangal District and in some pockets of other Districts in Kharif-2004 causing losses to the Bt. Cotton growers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) With regard to complaints received on MECH-12 of M/s Mahyco-Monsanto, compensation amount of Rs. 3.84 crore was awarded for which the company has appealed in the State level Memorandum of Understanding Committee and Hon'ble High Court. The State Government has imposed ban on sale of seed of any Bt. Cotton varieties of M/s Maharashtra Hybrids Seeds Company (Mahyco).

(d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests did not renew the permission to M/s Mahyco during Kharif-2005 for commercial cultivation of their three Bt. Cotton hybrids in Andhra Pradesh.

**Debt burden on farmers**

†2068. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost half of the population of farmers is burdened with debts in the country;

(b) if so, the number of farmers burdened with debts, State-wise;

(c) the concrete steps being taken by Government to improve the economic condition of the farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in its survey report on "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" released in the month of May, 2005 has estimated that 48.6% of farmer households were indebted.

(b) Details are at Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) Details are at Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.